EVENING KC

オールラウンダー廻 5

遠藤浩輝

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イブニングKC

I turned forty. Yikes! Incidentally, when I searched for *shijū* (forty) in the electronic dictionary here on my desk, the first things that popped up were menacing afflictions such as *shijūkaragari* (the deterioration eyesight that often afflicts people around forty) and *shijūkata* (middle-age shoulder pain), followed by "I can't believe you're still doing this at your age!" sort of things like *shijū-sugite no dōraku yamaiu* (over forty and still hasn't settled down) and *shijū furisode* (a woman over forty who's still wearing long-sleeved kimono, in other words, trying to look young). Finally, we got to the really scary stuff like *shijūni no futatsu ko* (if you have a two-year-old son at 42, your child will be the death of you, thanks to the fact that 42 can also be read *shini*, which means "die," and if you age of the child, that makes 44, which can also be read *shishi* ~ "death death").

In short, it was nothing but negative. What the hell? Especially *shijū furisode*. How rude! Don't they say "at thirty a woman is just beginning to ripen; at forty, she is fully ripe; at fifty, she is even riper; and she will be a woman until the day she dies"? Who says that, you ask? Well, setting aside the fact that I'd love my works to reach a more mature female demographic, what I want to say is, "Stop threatening me just because I'm forty!" Seriously, I'm freaking out here, so I'm going to get drunk. Glug, glug.

Ahh, this is just the season for some delicious hot sake. So where were we? Oh, right. Turn forty and the world gets scary. But I won't let it get to me. I have my family and my mortgage to think about! I am a fine Japanese dad. In the world of pro shooto, Junji Ikoma is the same age as me and still competing. And in North America, there's Randy Couture, who was born in like '63 or '64, which makes him 46 or 47. And how old is pro baseball player Masa Yamamoto? And is Kanemoto still playing for Hanshin? Am I just totally rambling here? This is supposed to be the afterword. But whatever. I'm drunk. Right, Randy?! (In my imagination, I clap him on the shoulder. And am scared of how huge he is.)

While I do appreciate Confucius's saying, "at forty I had no more doubts," so what if you do have doubts?! Right now I'm not sure whether the sake or wine or *shōchū* would be best. My first choice would be the *shōchū*, but there's a five-day-old bottle of red wine I should probably finish off first, and I just don't know what to do! (In my imagination, I clap Confucius on the shoulder. Wow, your back's wider than I expected, Comme...)

Uh, so anyway, once you turn forty you've got to take care of yourself and do what you need to do. Oh, gee, I guess I can say normal things once in a while after all.

Hiroki Endo, 11/15/2010

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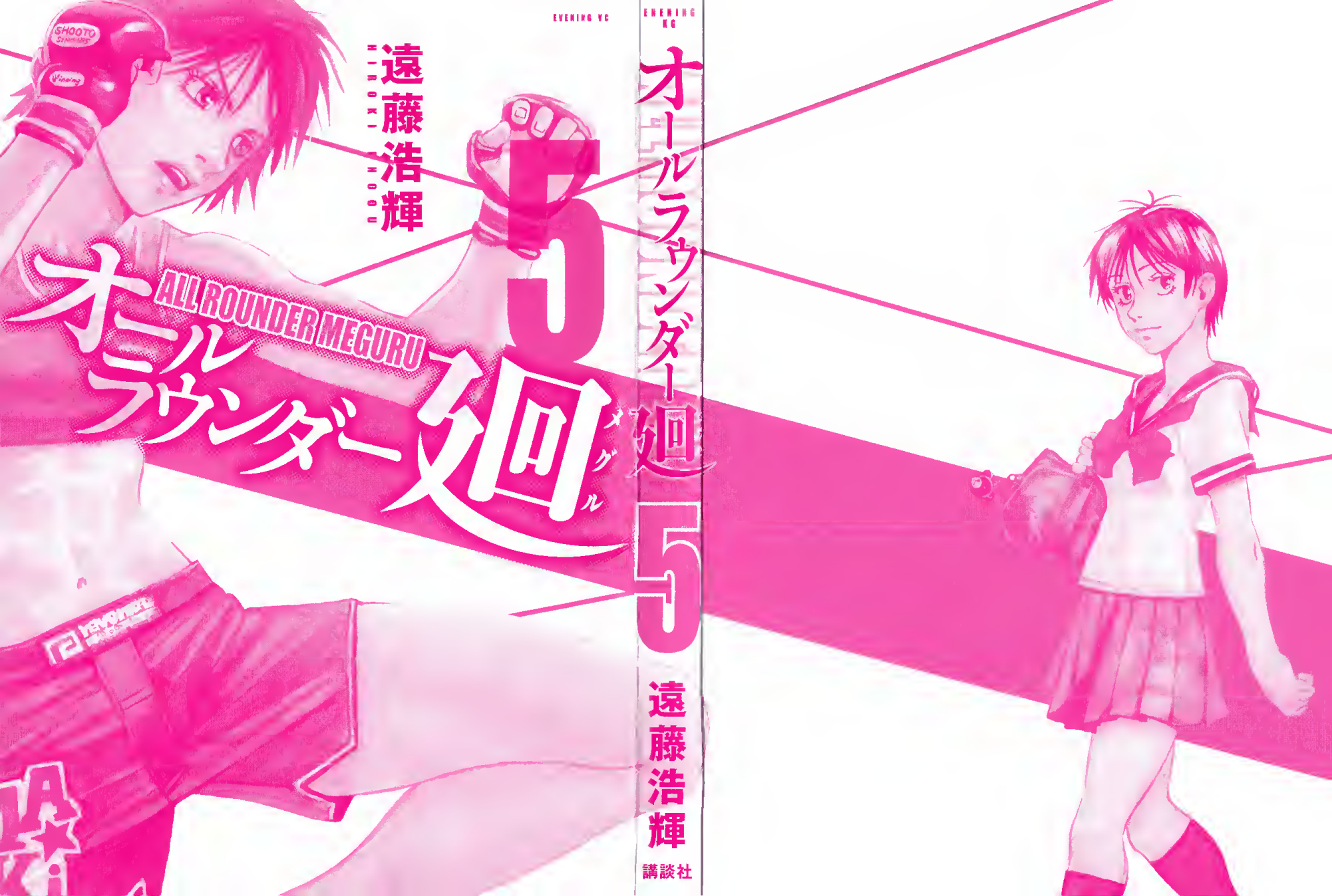
Tadashi KIGAMORI + Keiko TAGUCHI(KIGAMORI Shiroun...Ltd.)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ALL ROUNDER MEGURU
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5
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5
遠藤浩輝
講談社

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5

ALL ROUNDER MEGURU

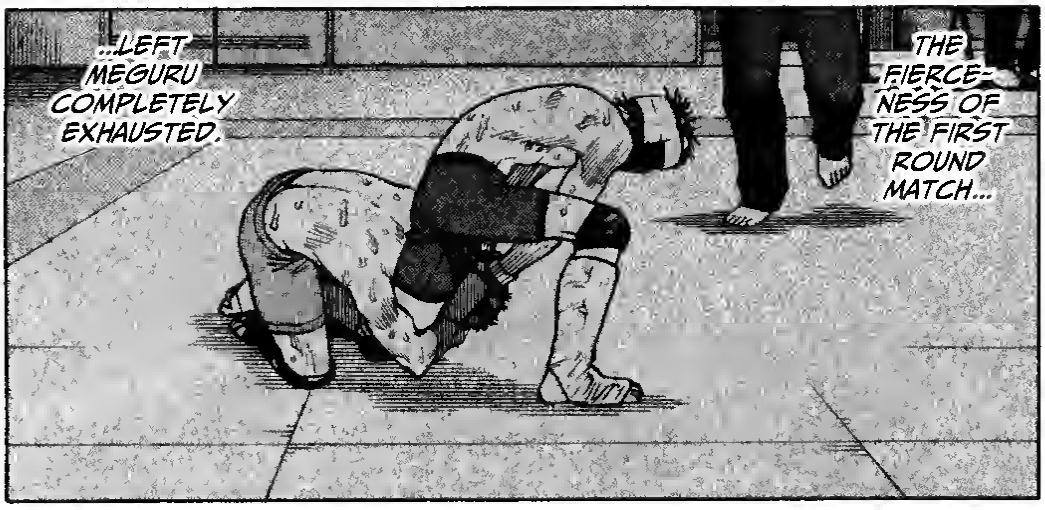
オールラウンダー廻（メグル）

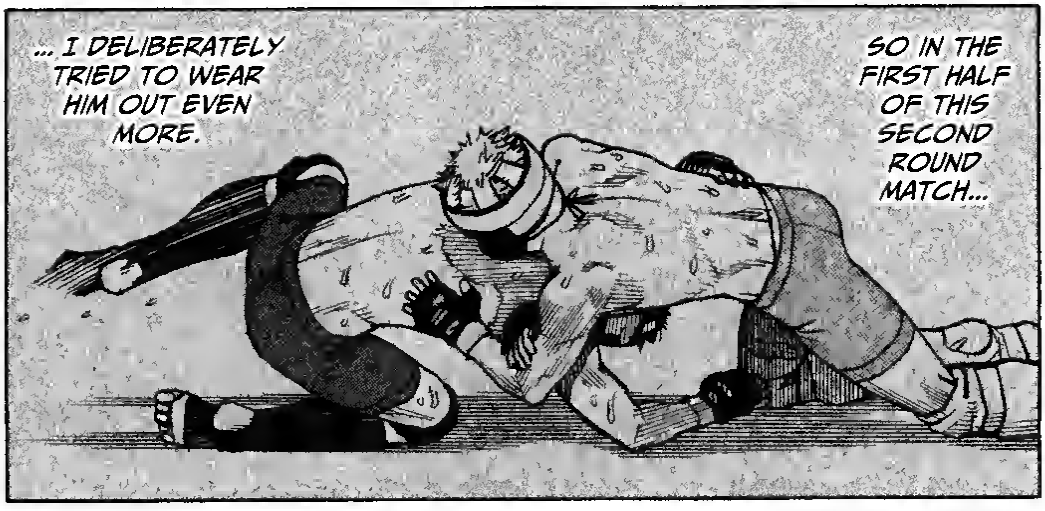
遠藤浩輝
HIROKI ENDOU

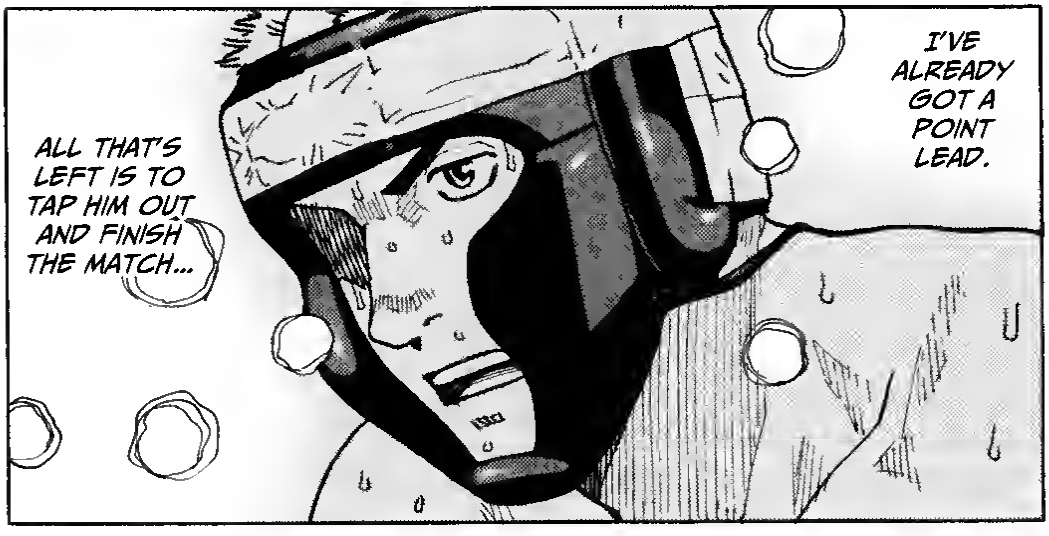
ALL ROUNDER MEGURU 5

CONTENTS

Chapter 39	Second Round Tournament Match ~Meguru~ (Part 3)	003
Chapter 40	Second Round Tournament Match ~Meguru~ (Part 4)	027
Chapter 41	Second Round Tournament Match ~Meguru~ (Part 5)	047
Chapter 42	Omen	071
Chapter 43	Tangled Up in Blue	089
Chapter 44	Semi-finals: Kitamura vs. Yamabuki (Part 1)	113
Chapter 45	Semi-finals: Kitamura vs. Yamabuki (Part 2)	133
Chapter 46	Semi-finals: Kitamura vs. Yamabuki (Part 3)	155
Chapter 47	Frustration	177


...LEFT MEGURU COMPLETELY EXHAUSTED.
THE FIERCE-NESS OF THE FIRST ROUND MATCH...


... I DELIBERATELY TRIED TO WEAR HIM OUT EVEN MORE.
SO IN THE FIRST HALF OF THIS SECOND ROUND MATCH...


ALL THAT'S LEFT IS TO TAP HIM OUT AND FINISH THE MATCH...
I'VE ALREADY GOT A POINT LEAD.

...SO WHY CAN'T I SUBMIT HIM?!
RESUME IN STANDING POSITION!
gasp
gasp
gasp
gasp
gasp

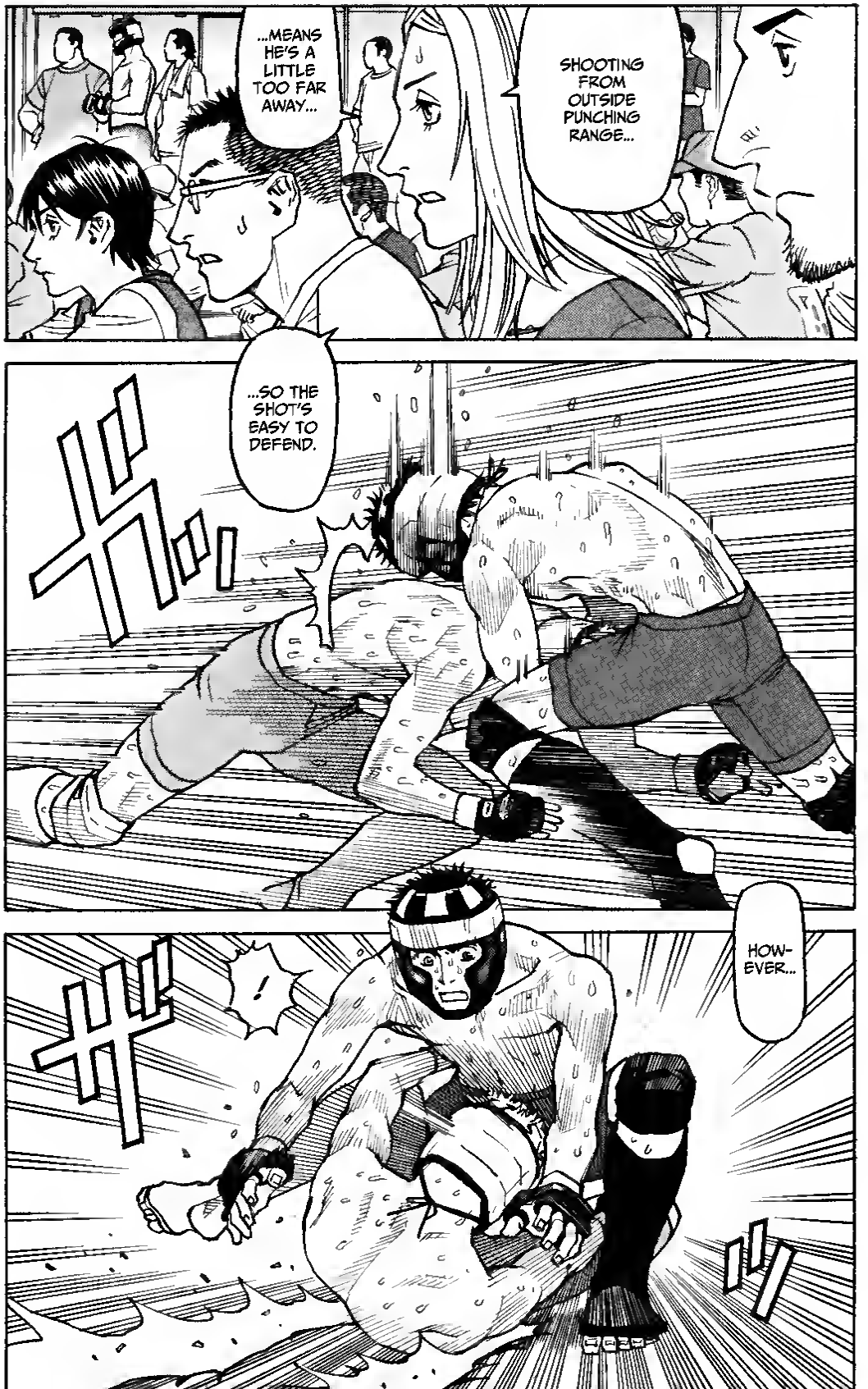
I'M UP!
gasp
gasp
gasp
I'VE GOT TO STAND UP...
STAND-ING...?
gasp
gasp
gasp
gasp
ズゥゥ
ウゥゥ
...
...I DON'T THINK I'LL BE ABLE TO GET BACK UP.
IF HE KNOCKS ME DOWN AGAIN...
gasp
gasp
gasp
gasp
SHOOTO
I CAN'T RAISE MY ARMS...
WHAT... THE HELL?

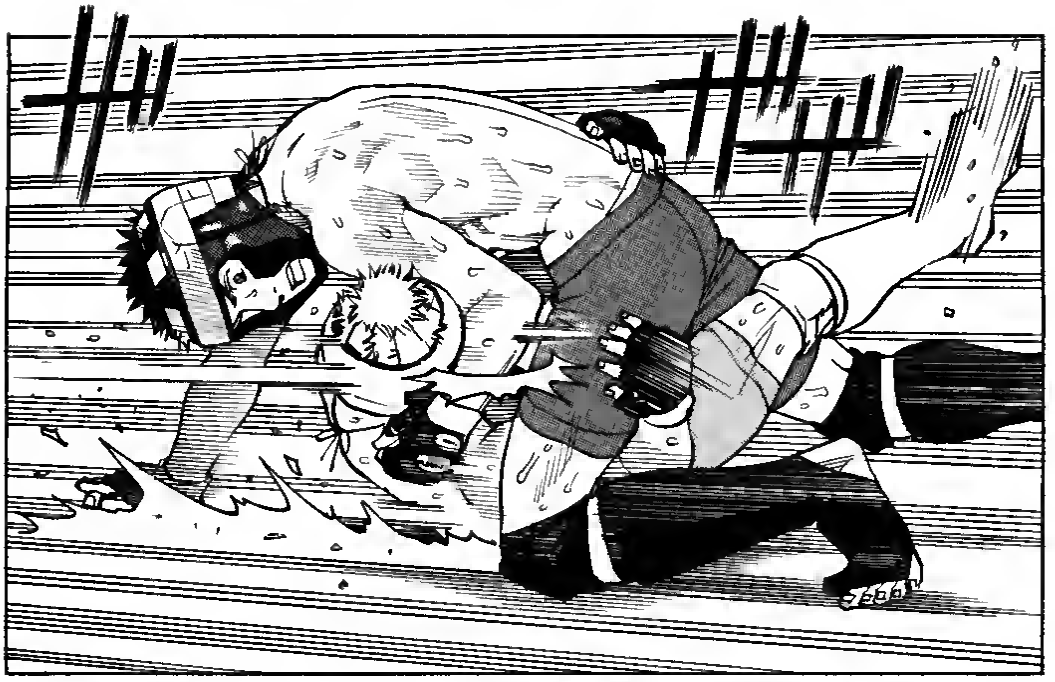
!
ATTACK!
HE'S HURTIN', TOO, MEGURU!
SHOOTO
IF I CAN'T BEAT HIM ON THE GROUND...
...I'LL JUST HAVE TO KNOCK HIM OUT!
gasp
gasp
RIGHT.
gasp
BAM
ドシュ!!

HE KEEPS MOVING OUT OF MY REACH...
gasp
gasp
gasp
DAMN IT!
USE THE LEFT MIDDLE KICK!
MEGURU! HE'S PULLING BACK!
IS OGASAWARA JUST GONNA DANCE AROUND...
pissed
pissed
...UNTIL TIME'S UP?

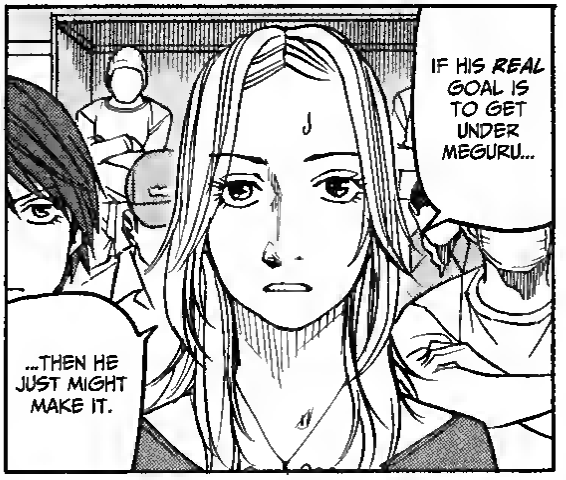
HIEE
IF I TRY, HE'LL JUST CATCH MY LEG AND TAKE ME DOWN!
NO WAY!
...HE WOULDN'T STAY THAT CLOSE.
NO, IF HE WAS JUST DODGING...
HE'S WAITING FOR A CHANCE TO GRAPPLE.

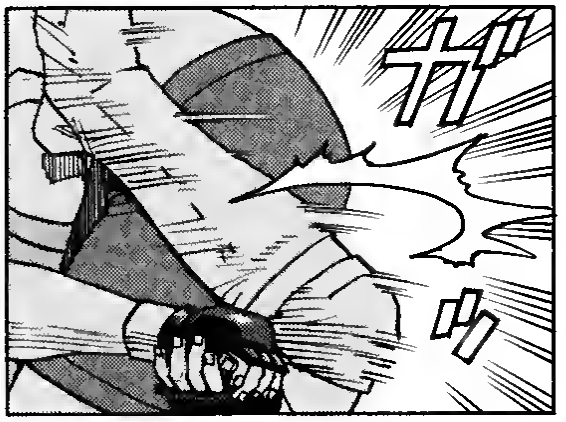
...IS MEANING-LESS!
BEATING MEGURU TAKAYANAGI BY A POINT LEAD...
...
...SUBMIT HIM!
I HAVE TO...


SHOOTING FROM OUTSIDE PUNCHING RANGE...
...MEANS HE'S A LITTLE TOO FAR AWAY...
...SO THE SHOT'S EASY TO DEFEND.
HOW-EVER...



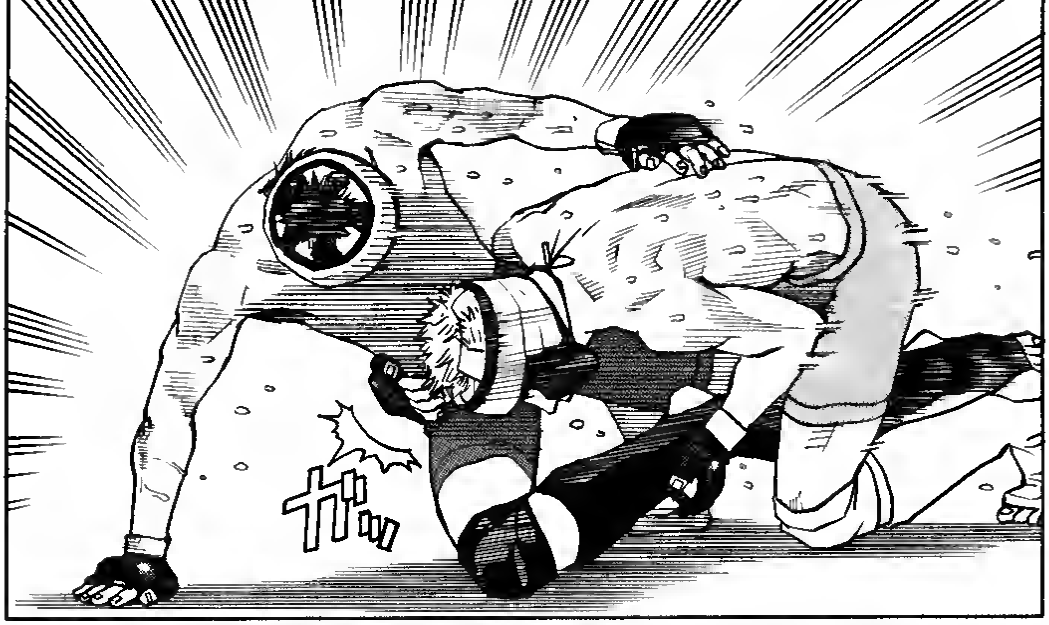
WHOA.


IF HIS REAL GOAL IS TO GET UNDER MEGURU...
...THEN HE JUST MIGHT MAKE IT.



AUGH!
HE'S GOING FOR AN ANKLE LOCK...
I CAN'T...!
HE'S GONNA BREAK MY LEG...!
MEGURU, THAT'S A FEINT!
JUST CALM DOWN AND CRUSH HIM!
WAH!
NOW A SWEEP.

HE KNOWS MEGURU SAW THAT GUY WITH THE BROKEN ANKLE EARLIER...
...SO HE'S RELYING ON THAT FEAR TO GET HIM ON TOP.
MEGURU, DON'T LET HIM GET YOUR BACK!
STAND UP!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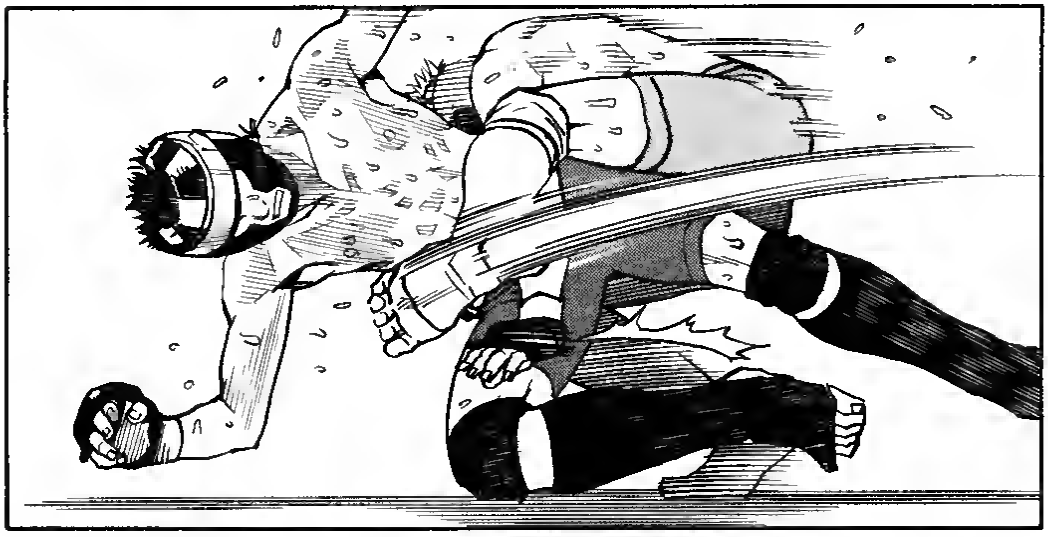
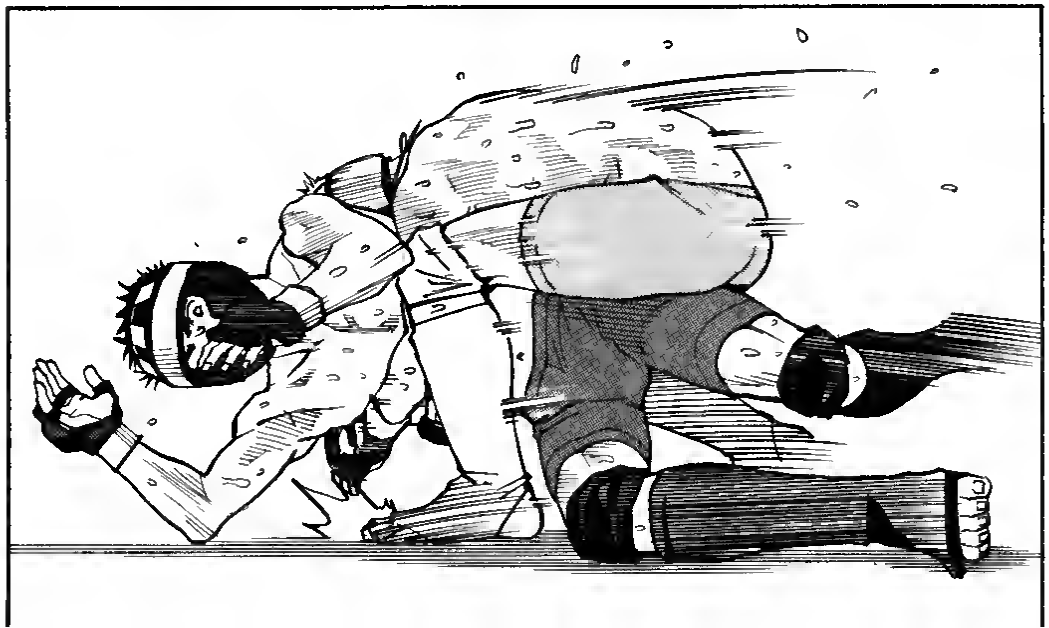
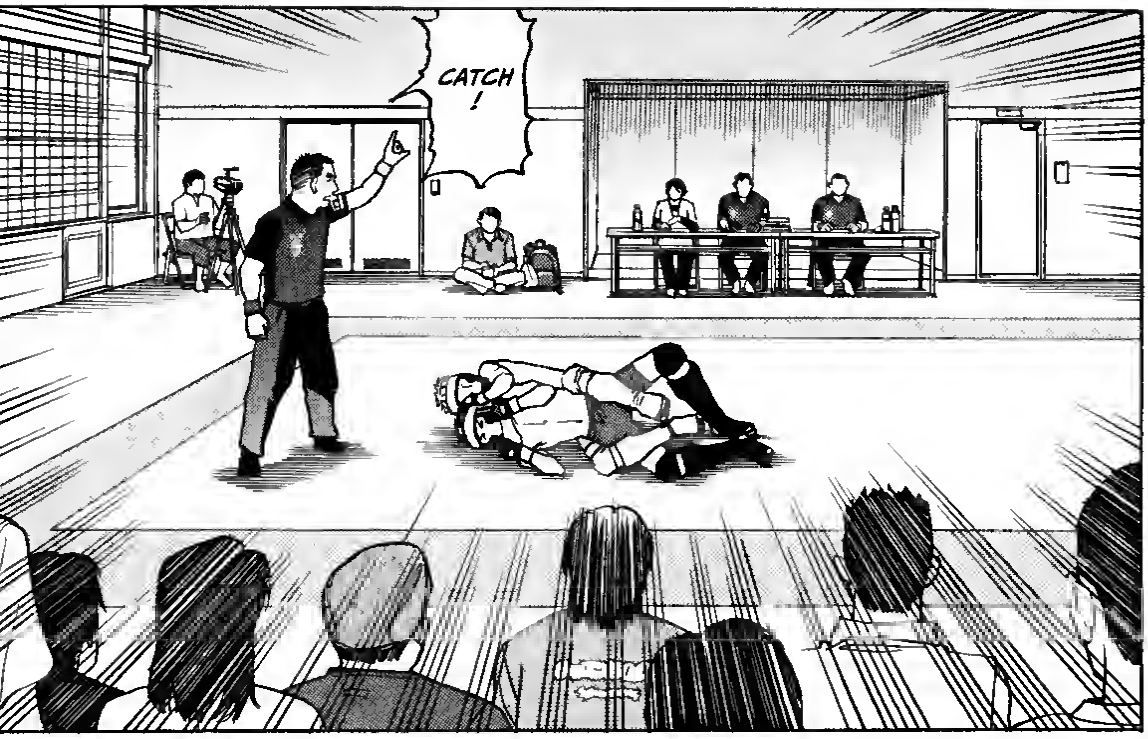
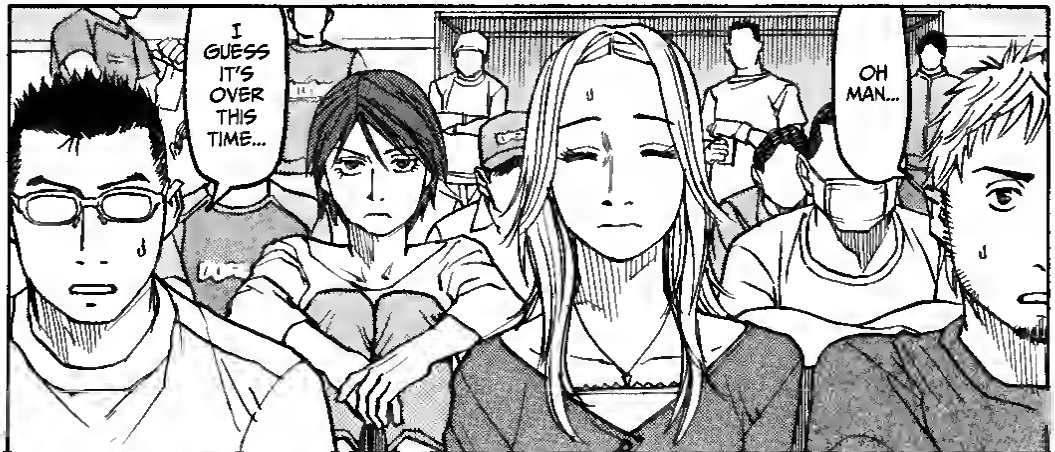




ガッ!!
SHOOTO

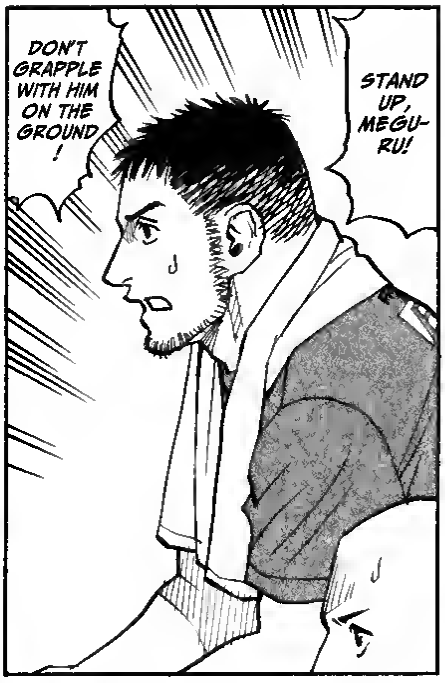

CATCH!

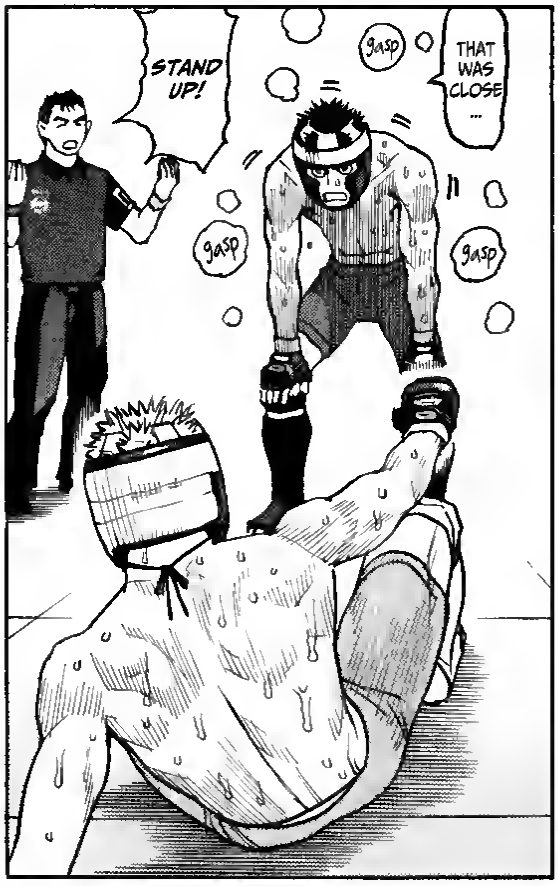

I GUESS IT'S OVER THIS TIME...
OH MAN...

I'M DONE FOR!
IT'S NO USE...
FOR REAL THIS TIME!
I CAN FINISH HIM..!
SLIDE!
SWIT
AH!

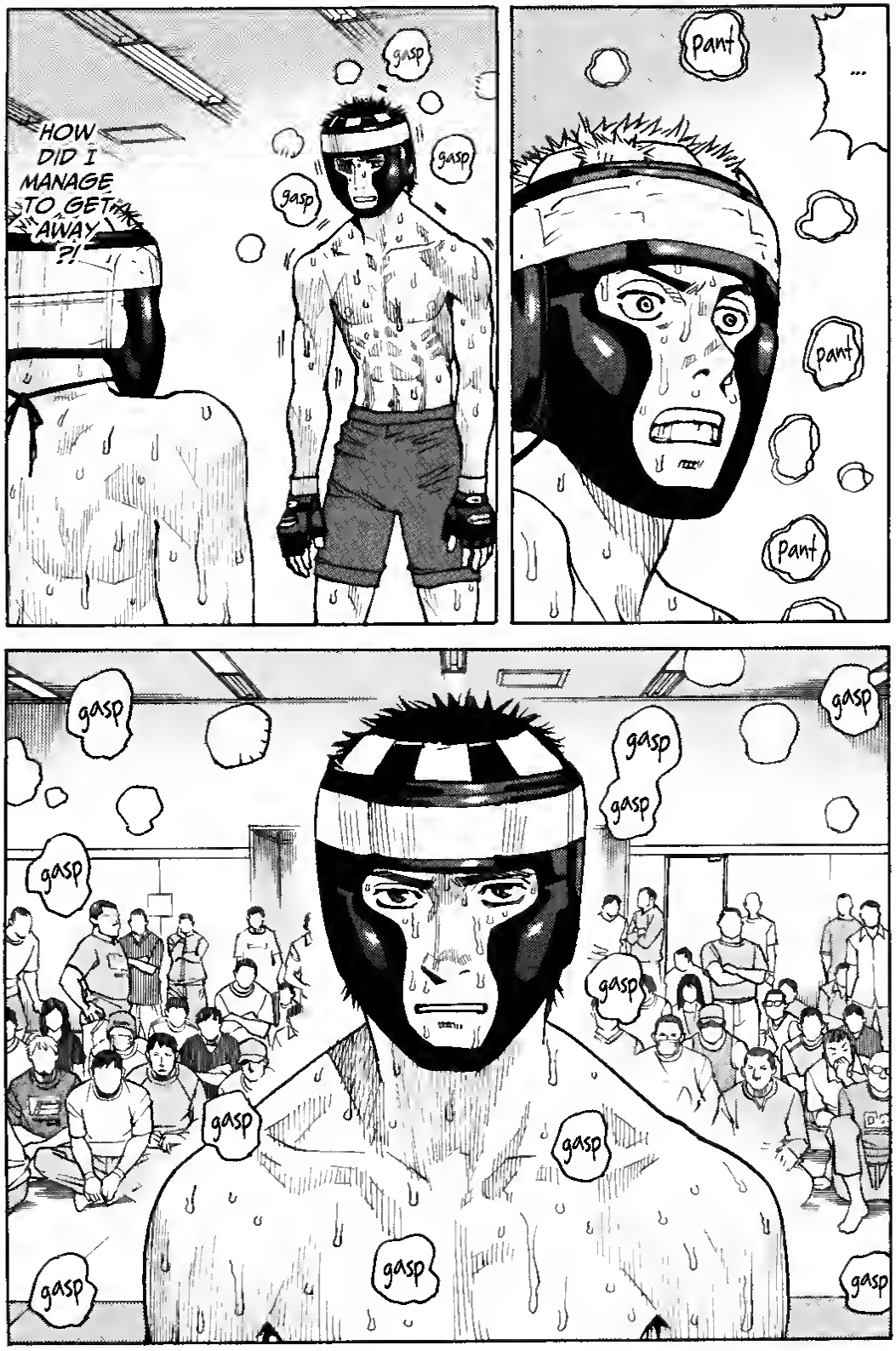
!!
THAT KID'S GOT GUTS!
おお
HE FLIPPED HIM!
お
HOW'D I GET ON TOP?
gasp
gasp
HUH ...?
gasp
gasp

OHH ...
RIGHT ...
gasp
gasp
gasp

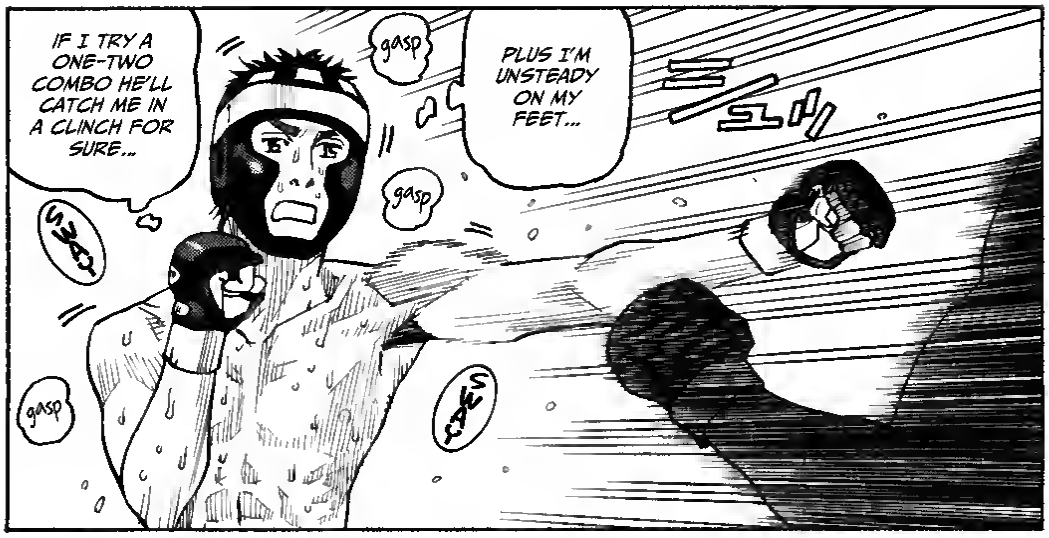

DON'T GRAPPLE WITH HIM ON THE GROUND!
STAND UP, MEGURU!


STAND UP!
gasp
THAT WAS CLOSE ...
gasp
gasp

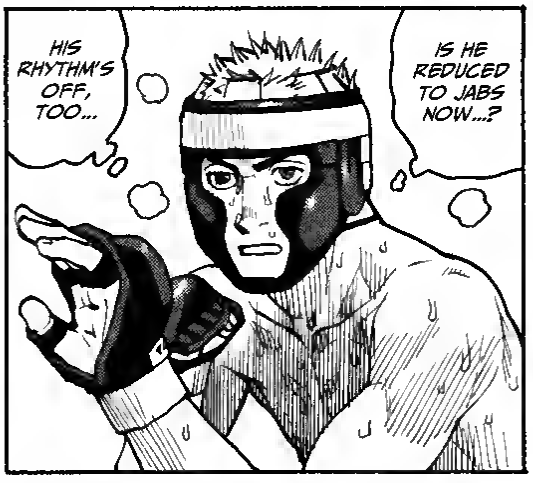
WHOA!

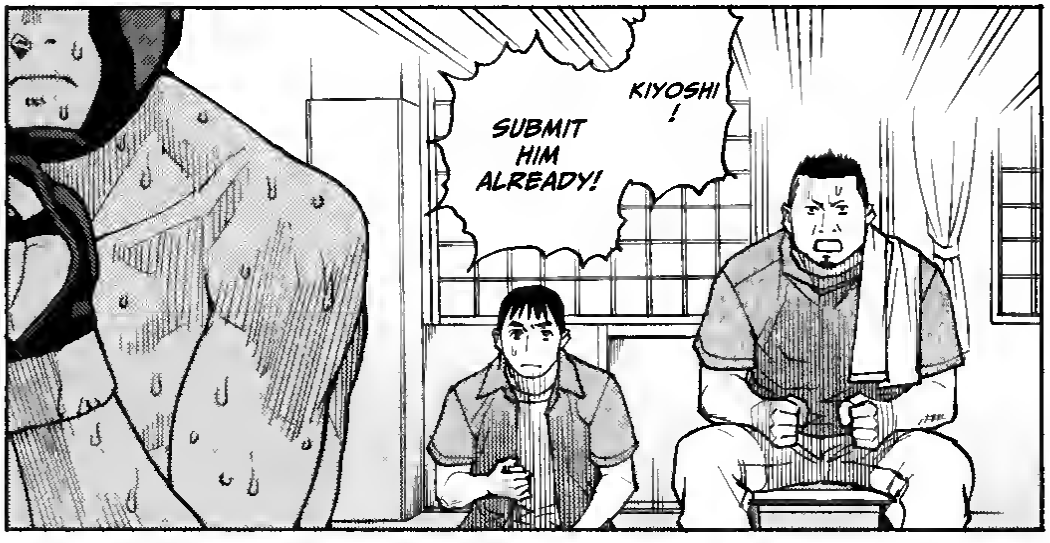

HOW DID I MANAGE TO GET AWAY?!
gasp
gasp
gasp
Pant
...
Pant
Pant
gasp
gasp
gasp
gasp
gasp
gasp
gasp
gasp
gasp
gasp

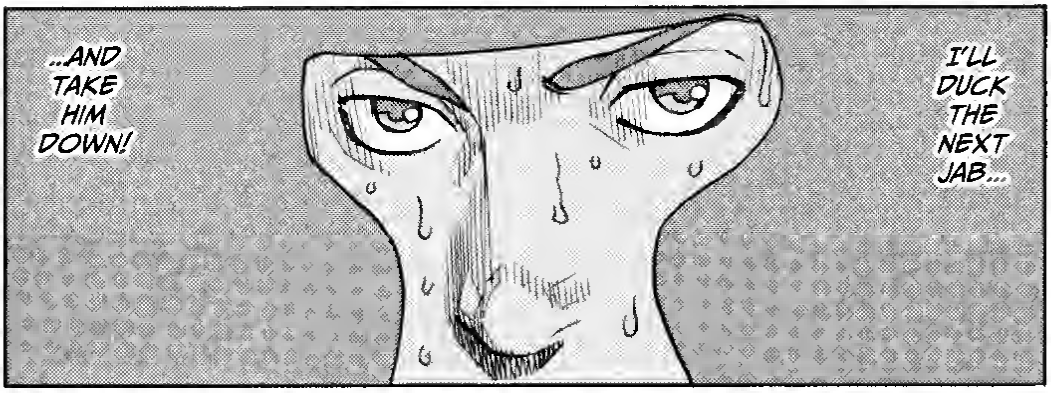
...THIS DETER-MINED NOT TO GIVE UP?
HAVE I ALWAYS BEEN...
gasp
gasp
gasp
I CAN BARELY RAISE MY ARMS...!
"STRIKE" ...?
STRIKE!
FORWARDS, MEGURU!
ｼｭｯ

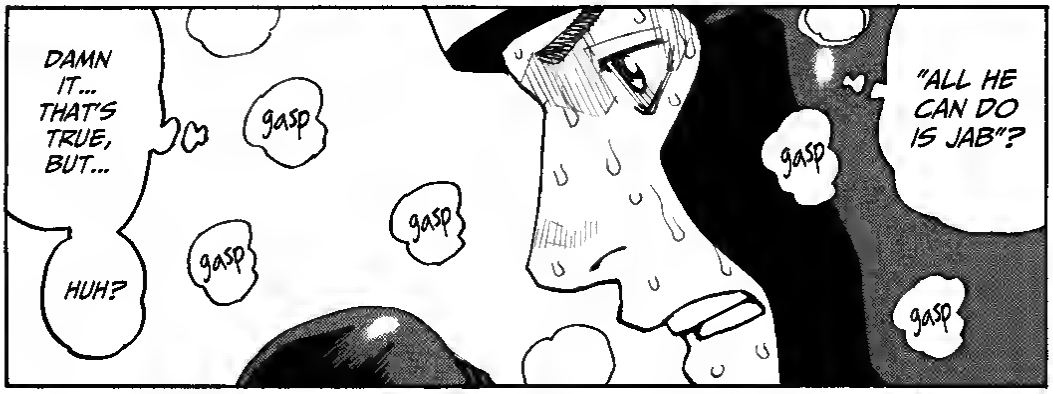

IF I TRY A ONE-TWO COMBO HE'LL CATCH ME IN A CLINCH FOR SURE...
gasp
PLUS I'M UNSTEADY ON MY FEET...
gasp
gasp

ALL HE CAN DO IS JAB!
ONE MINUTE LEFT! GET HIM!


HIS RHYTHM'S OFF, TOO...
IS HE REDUCED TO JABS NOW...?

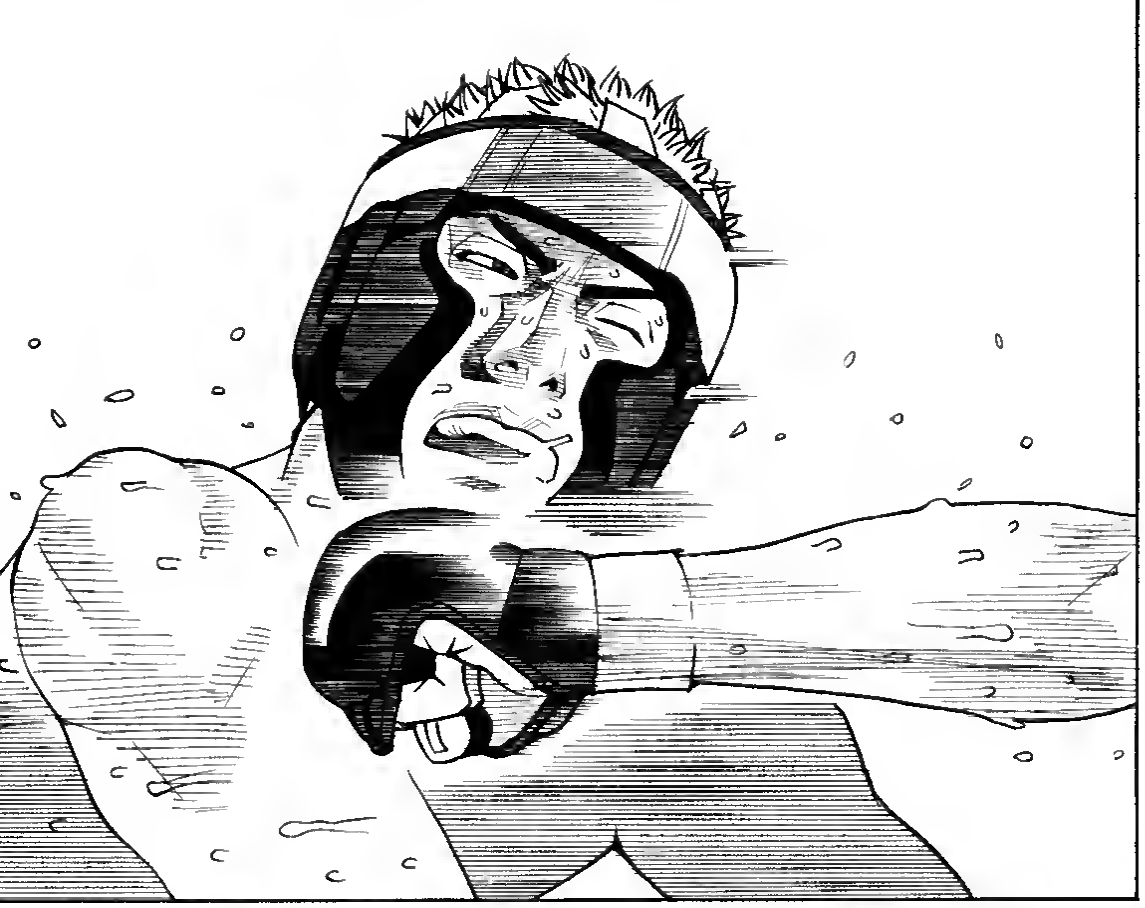

KIYOSHI!
SUBMIT HIM ALREADY!

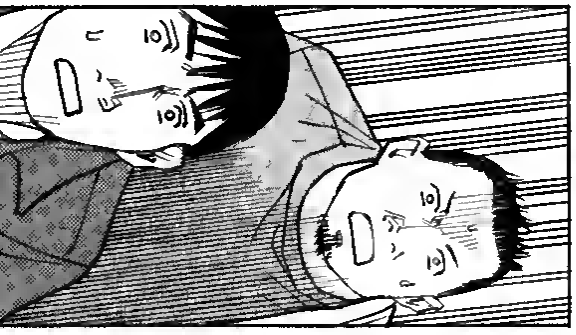

...AND TAKE HIM DOWN!
I'LL DUCK THE NEXT JAB...

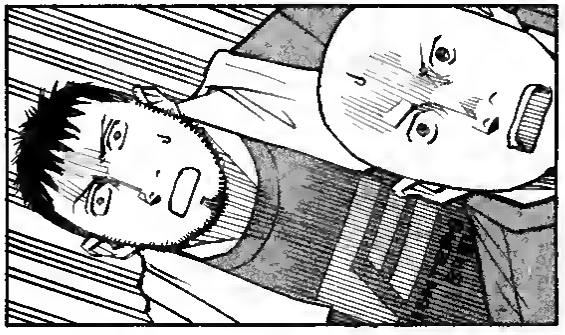

DAMN IT... THAT'S TRUE, BUT...
HUH?
gasp
gasp
gasp
gasp
gasp
"ALL HE CAN DO IS JAB"?

IS IT?

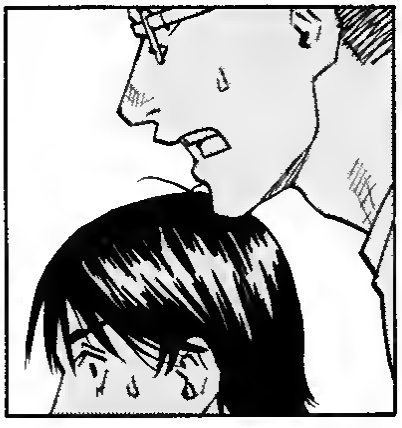
THERE!
...NO, WAIT?!
LOW?!

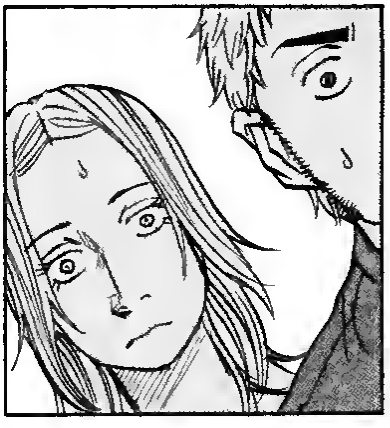






(Remembers getting hit with that.)

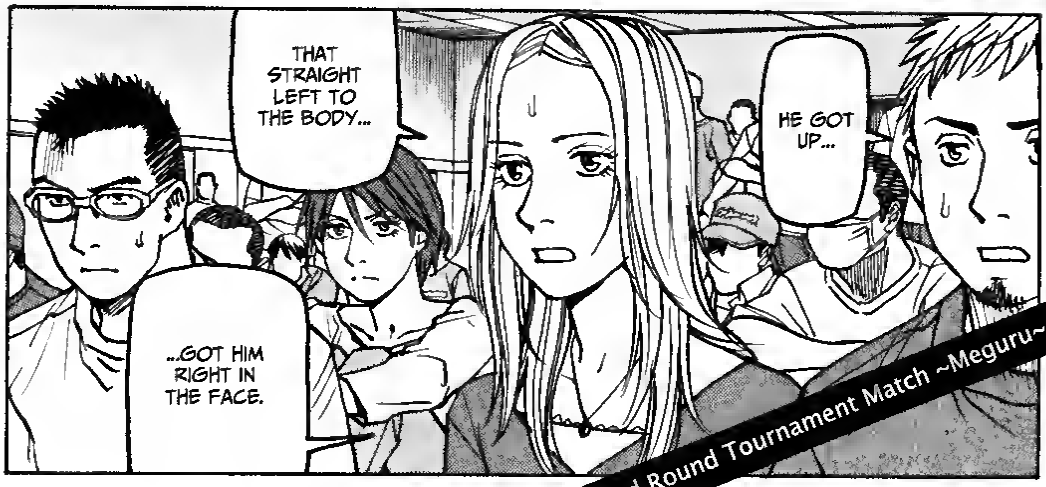


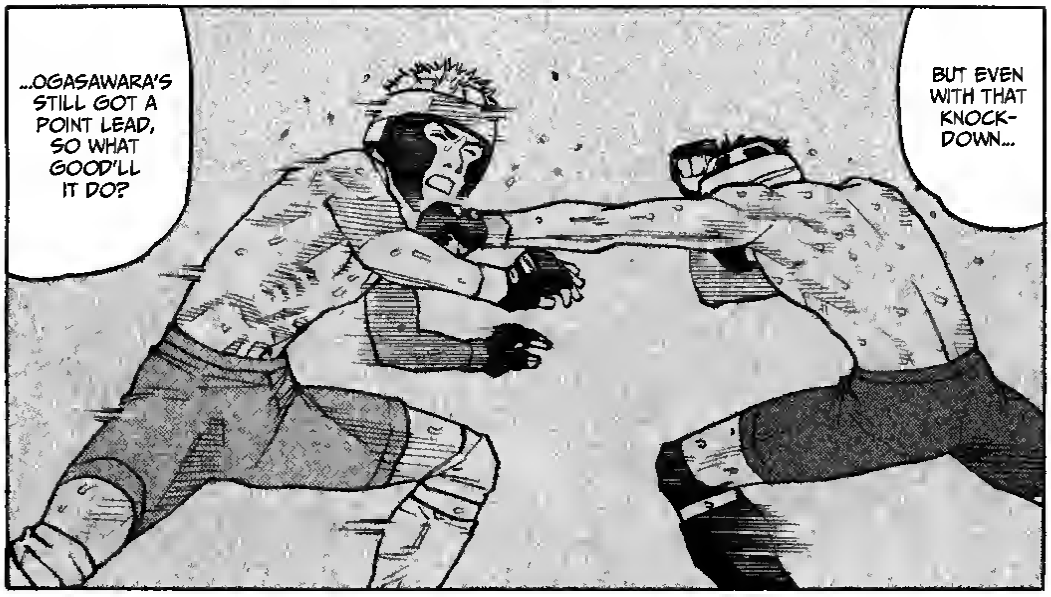


DOWN
!

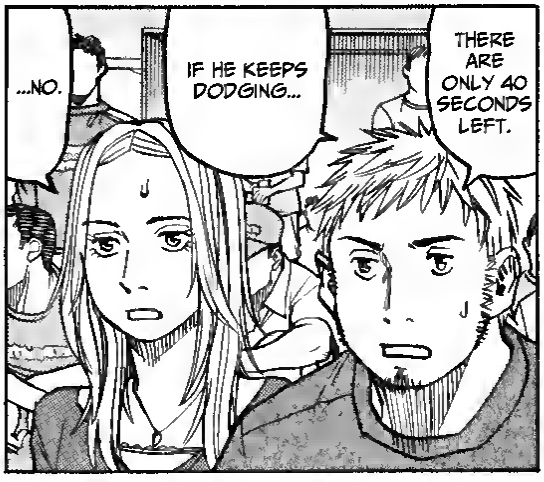
TWO!
ONE!
I LANDED THAT LEFT PUNCH...
gasp
I GOT HIM...
gasp
gasp
AN UPPER-CUT?! NO..!
WHAT THE HELL... WAS THAT?!

THREE!


THAT STRAIGHT LEFT TO THE BODY...
HE GOT UP...
...GOT HIM RIGHT IN THE FACE.


...OGASAWARA'S STILL GOT A POINT LEAD, SO WHAT GOOD'LL IT DO?
BUT EVEN WITH THAT KNOCK-DOWN...

...MEGURU STILL HAS A CHANCE!


...NO.
IF HE KEEPS DODGING...
THERE ARE ONLY 40 SECONDS LEFT.

AND IF HE DOES...
HE'S PROBABLY GONNA KEEP GOING FOR A SUBMISSION.
REFEREE

FIGHT!
BUT EVER SINCE I GOT TO PURPLE- AND BROWN-BELT LEVEL IN JIU-JITSU...
...IN OTHER WORDS, ONCE I GOT NEAR THE TOP...
I CAN'T EVEN COUNT HOW MANY SUBMISSIONS I'VE GOTTEN...
JIU-JITSU, MMA, GRAPPLING ...

THE BETTER YOUR OPPONENT IS, THE LESS LIKELY EITHER OF YOU ARE TO WIN BY SUBMISSION.
...OR SO I THOUGHT.
...IT BECAME A BATTLE FOR POINTS...
...AND I STOPPED GETTING SUBMISSIONS.
!
WINNING BY POINT LEAD BECAME THE NORM...
...AND IT BECAME MY STYLE.

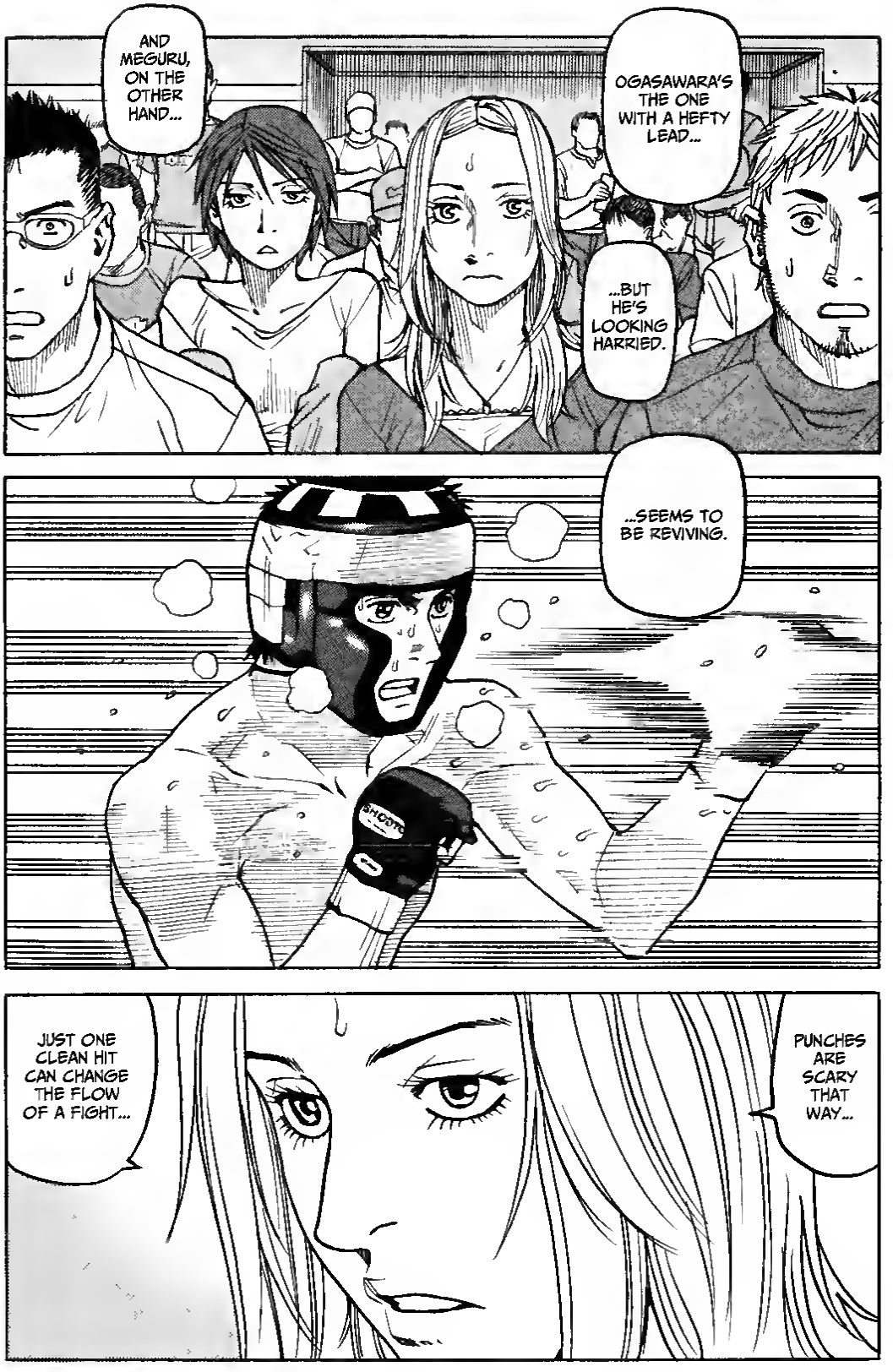
...SO WHAT'S HE DOING WITH A BLACK BELT?
OH, THAT...
I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM AROUND THE JIU-JITSU CIRCUIT LATELY...
HUH? THAT GUY...
HE SWEPT HIS OPPONENT BEFORE THAT.
LOCKSTAR
SO WHAT PROBABLY HAPPENED IS THAT THE LEAGUE AGREED HE HAD FINISHED WITH A JIU-JITSU MOVE.
HE TKO'D A BRAZILIAN JIU-JITSU BLACK BELT DURING AN MMA MATCH IN THE US.
HE GOT A JIU-JITSU BLACK BELT EVEN THOUGH HE WON WITH PUNCHES?
HUH?

BUT THAT SUBMISSION LOSS...
...MADE ME REALIZE ONE THING.
TO BE HONEST ...
...I STILL DIDN'T GET IT.
AND I DON'T THINK THAT'S A BAD THING, BUT...
"I DON'T CARE ABOUT THE POINT LEAD, I JUST WANT TO WIN BY SUBMISSION."
...WHAT KIND OF FIGHTER DID I WANT TO BE?
WHEN I FIRST TOOK UP JIU-JITSU...

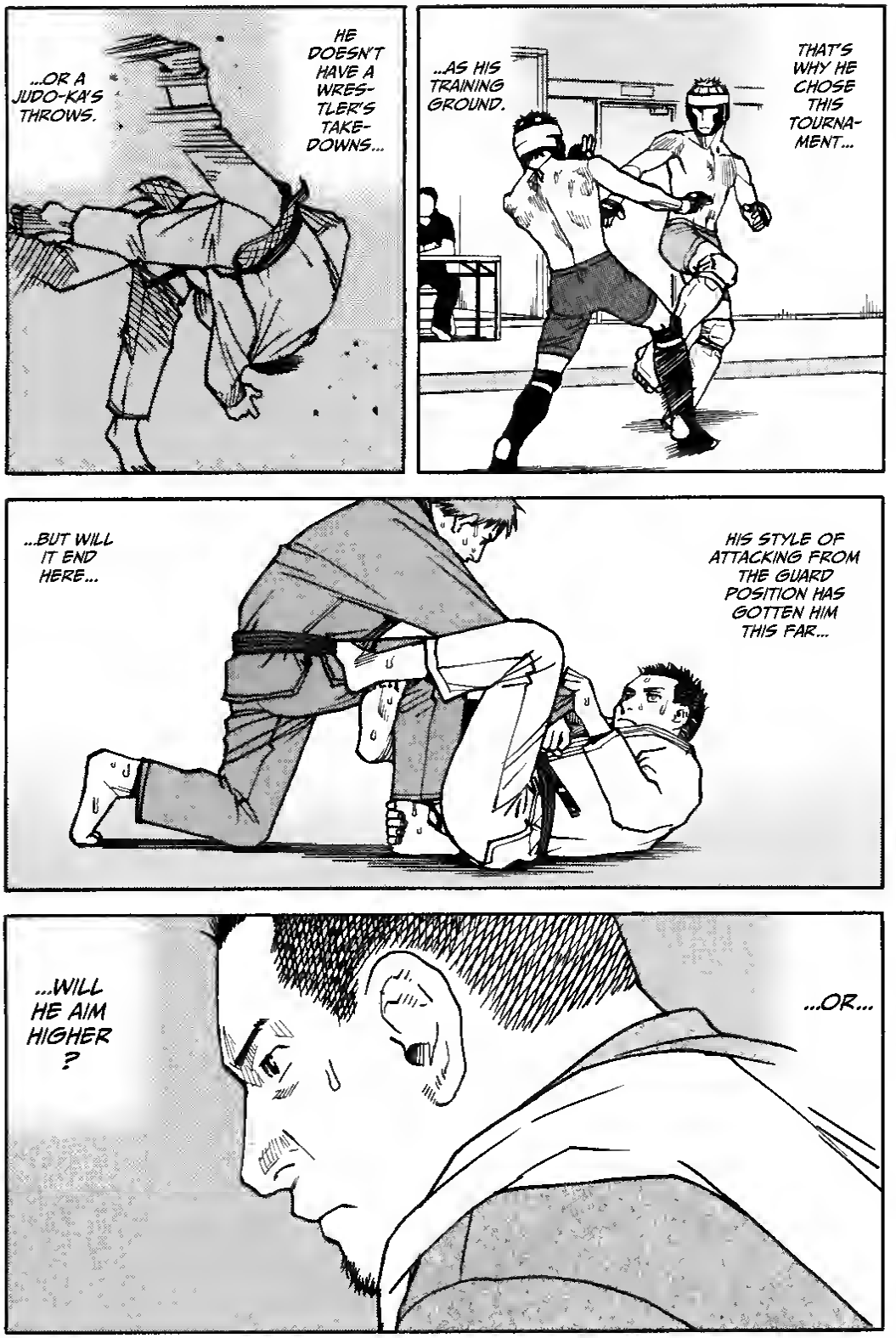
WAH!
I'VE GOTTA STOP HIM!
IS HE NOT GONNA TRY AND KEEP THE POINT LEAD?!
HE ATTACKED WITH A PUNCH!

110
HE'S GONNA SHOOT!
WATCH OUT, MEGURU!
KIYOSHI! STAY COOL!
JUST KEEP CALM AND CLOSE THE DISTANCE!

ドサッ
HEY, LOOK. BY ALTERNATING HIGH AND LOW...
...HE'S BLOCKED OGASAWARA FROM SHOOTING IN FOR A TAKEDOWN.
UGH!
ALTERNATE HIGH AND LOW!
THAT'S IT, MEGURU!

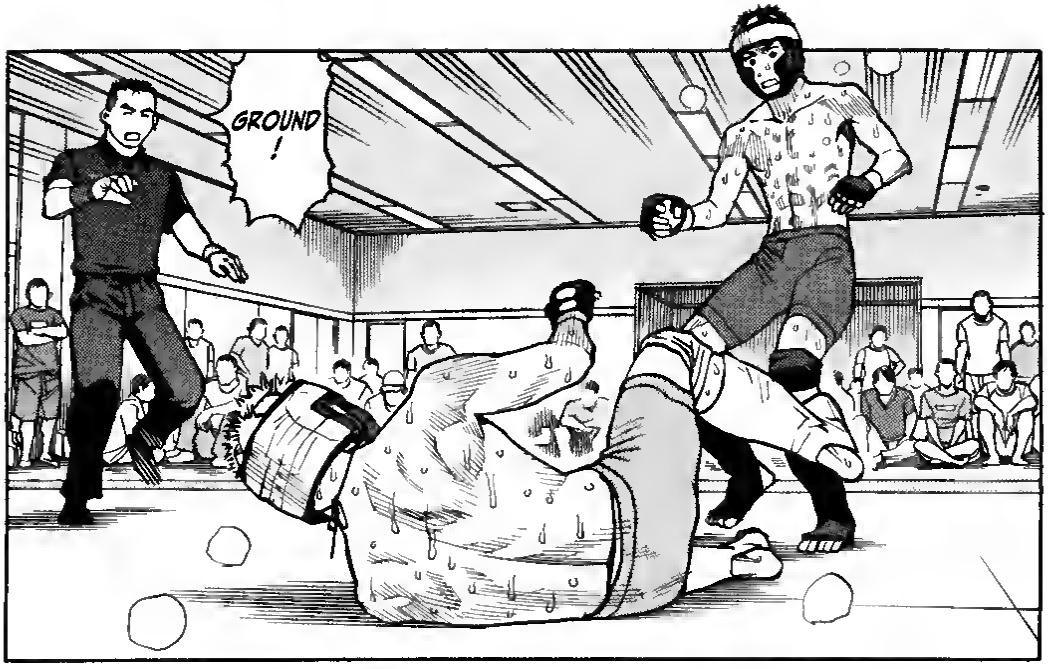

AND MEGURU, ON THE OTHER HAND...
OGASAWARA'S THE ONE WITH A HEFTY LEAD...
...BUT HE'S LOOKING HARRIED.
...SEEMS TO BE REVIVING.
JUST ONE CLEAN HIT CAN CHANGE THE FLOW OF A FIGHT...
PUNCHES ARE SCARY THAT WAY...

...YOU'VE GOTTA GET THAT SUBMIS-SION TO WIN.
EVEN IF YOU'RE UP AGAINST A BLACK BELT...
...
..AND THE COURAGE TO TAKE RISKS.
TECHNICAL ACCURACY, GOOD JUDGE-MENT IN ALL SITUATIONS ...
...HE'S MISSING SOME-THING.
KIYOSHI'S BEGINNING TO REALIZE...
HOOTO

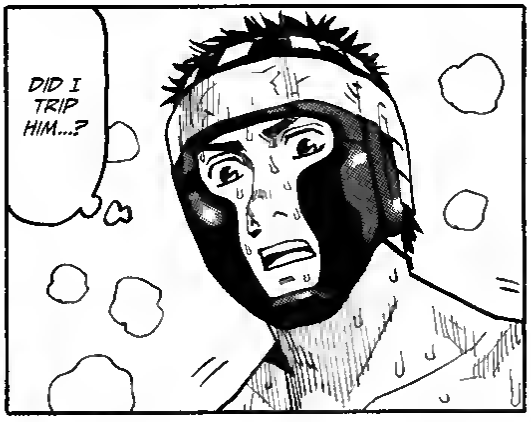

...OR A JUDO-KA'S THROWS.
HE DOESN'T HAVE A WRES-TLER'S TAKE-DOWNS...
...AS HIS TRAINING GROUND.
THAT'S WHY HE CHOSE THIS TOURNA-MENT...
...BUT WILL IT END HERE...
HIS STYLE OF ATTACKING FROM THE GUARD POSITION HAS GOTTEN HIM THIS FAR...
...WILL HE AIM HIGHER ?
...OR...

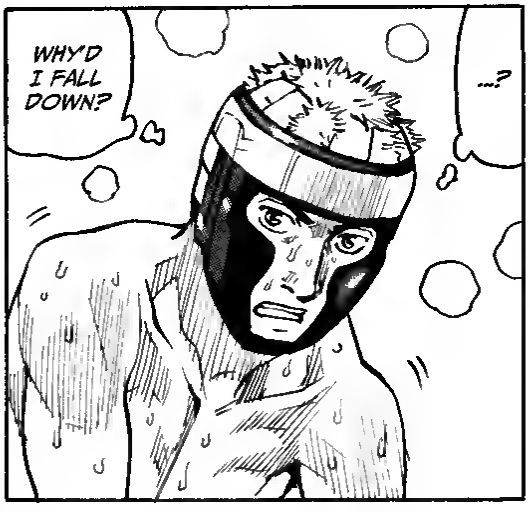
gasp
gasp
gasp
gasp
gasp
gasp
gasp
gasp
...I'LL SETTLE FOR A CLINCH!
IF I CAN'T TAKE HIM DOWN...
WAH!
ヒ!!

HE GRABBED ME...!
SHIT ..!

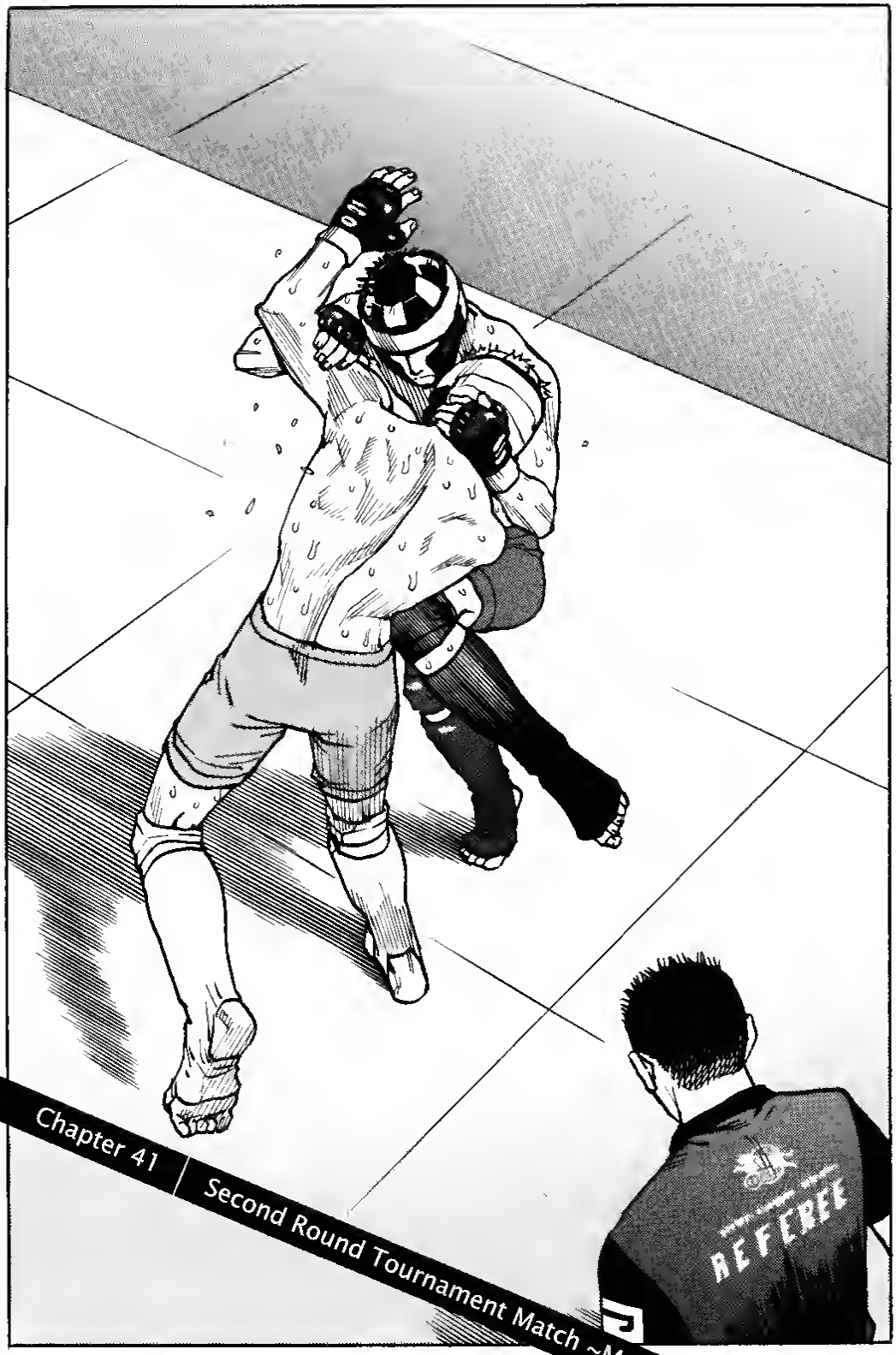

GROUND!

KIYOSHI! TWENTY SECONDS LEFT!
KEEP ATTACK-ING!


DID I TRIP HIM...?


WHY'D I FALL DOWN?
...?

HE CAN'T COUNTER A CLINCH!
!
MEGU-RU!
BRING HIM DOWN!



Chapter 41 | Second Round Tournament Match ~Meguru~ (Part 5)

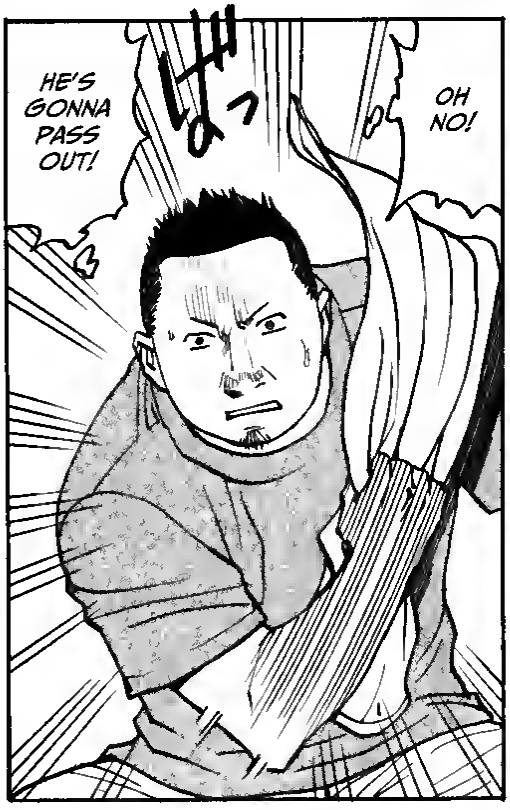
REALLY ?
BUT YOU CAN'T DO THAT.
YEAH.
YOU REALLY DON'T WANT TO PULL.
WHEN PEOPLE DO CLINCHES ...
...THEY ALWAYS TRY TO GET THEIR KNEE IN AND THEN GO FOR A NECK LOCK.
INSTEAD OF PULLING ON THEIR NECK AND ELBOW...
...JUST GRAB THEM.
GRAB AND TWIST!
WAH!
んっ

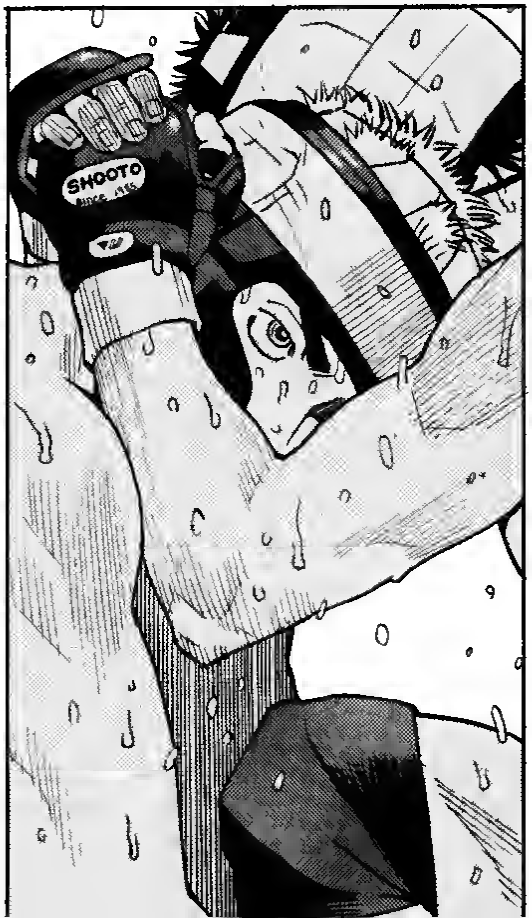
SO THAT'S WHY YOU LIKE CLINCHES...
WHEN I'M SPARRING WITH GUYS, I'LL ALWAYS BE AT A DISADVANTAGE STRENGTH-WISE.
IF YOU TRY AND PULL, THEY'LL JUST PULL BACK, RIGHT?
AND THEN WHOEVER'S STRONGER WILL WIN.
I'VE ONLY GOT A FEW PATTERNS I CAN USE...
...BUT FIRST OFF IS A BODY BLOW LIKE THIS.
ANYWAY, IT SOUNDS EASY...
BUT WITH CLINCHES, I CAN USE THAT TO MY ADVANTAGE.
NO NEED
...BUT IT TAKES TIME TO LEARN.

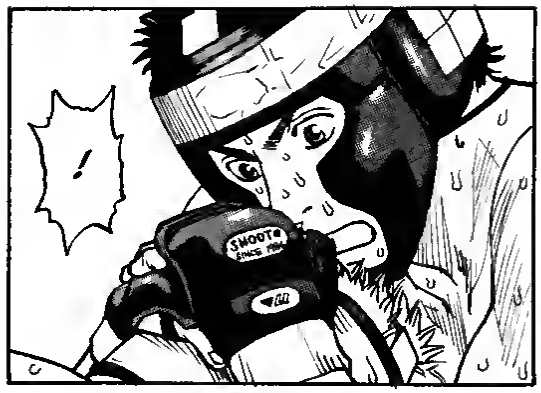
ガッ

…

...YOU DO A NECK LOCK!
ガッ
...AND FROM THERE ...
THE BODY BLOW WILL STOP YOUR OPPONENT ...
NONEEDHEN
AND THEN BRING 'EM DOWN!
ドッ


HE'S GONNA PASS OUT!
OH NO!


SHOOTO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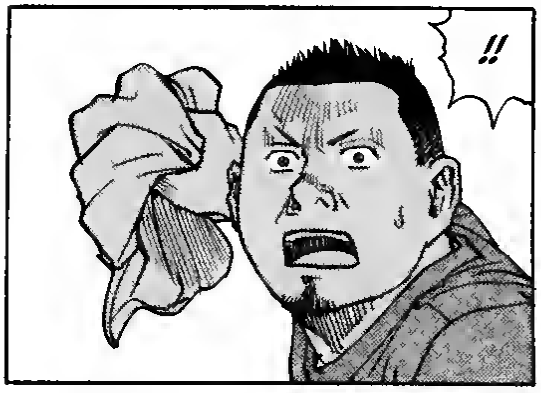
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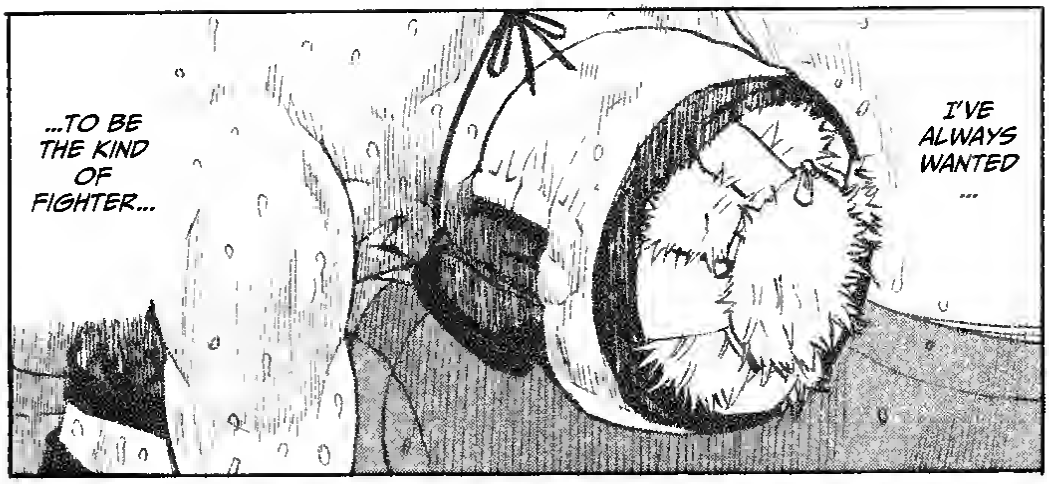
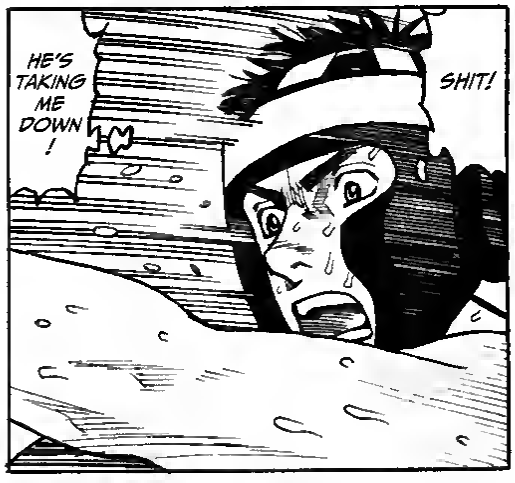
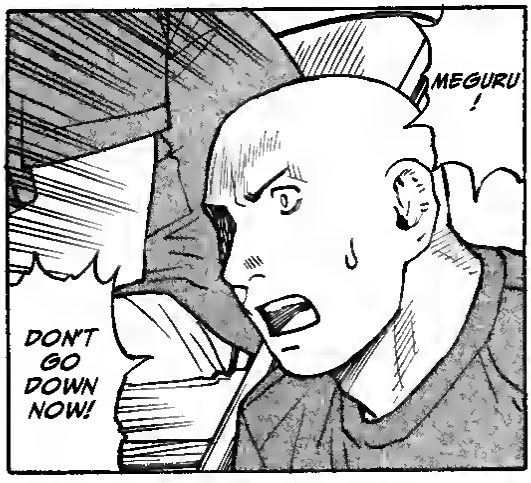

...TO BE THE KIND OF FIGHTER...
I'VE ALWAYS WANTED ...

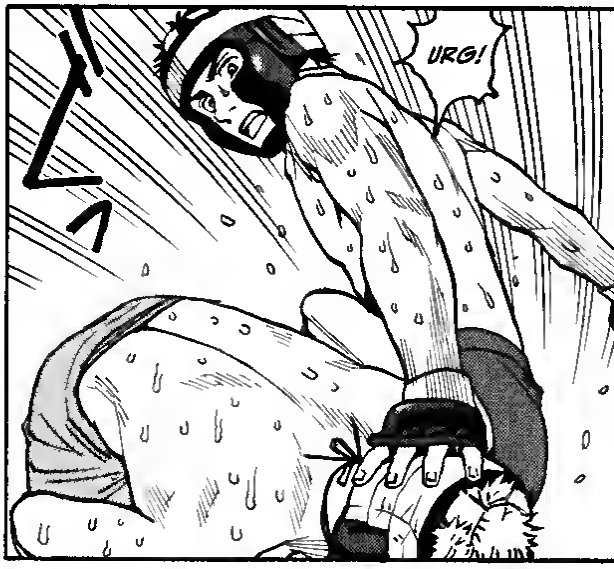

HE'S TAKING ME DOWN!
SHIT!


MEGURU!
DON'T GO DOWN NOW!

...TILL THE END...
...WHO KEEPS FIGHTING ...

...AND ALWAYS ...
...GETS A SUBMIS-SION.

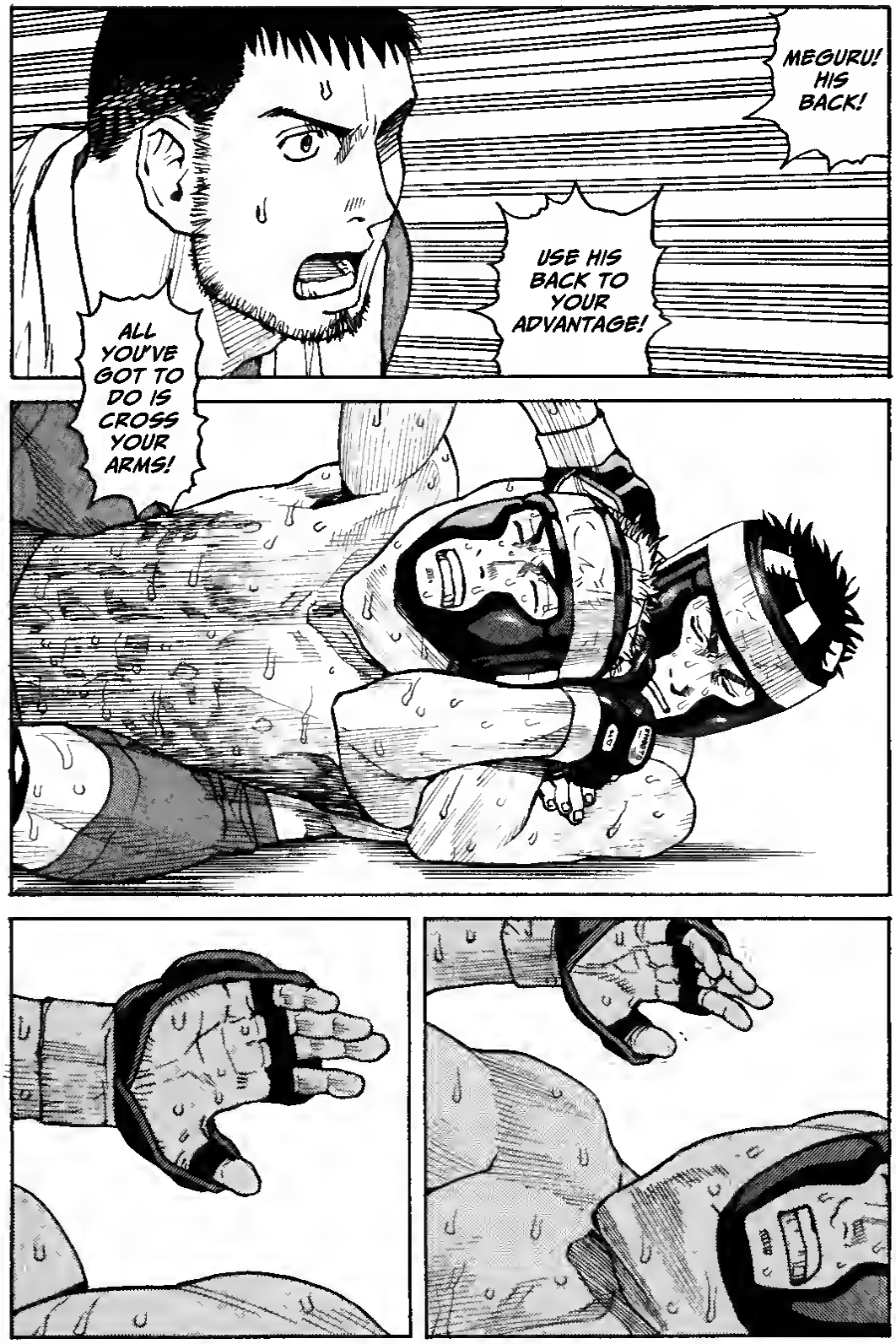
GET HIS BACK...!
MEGURU! SWITCH!

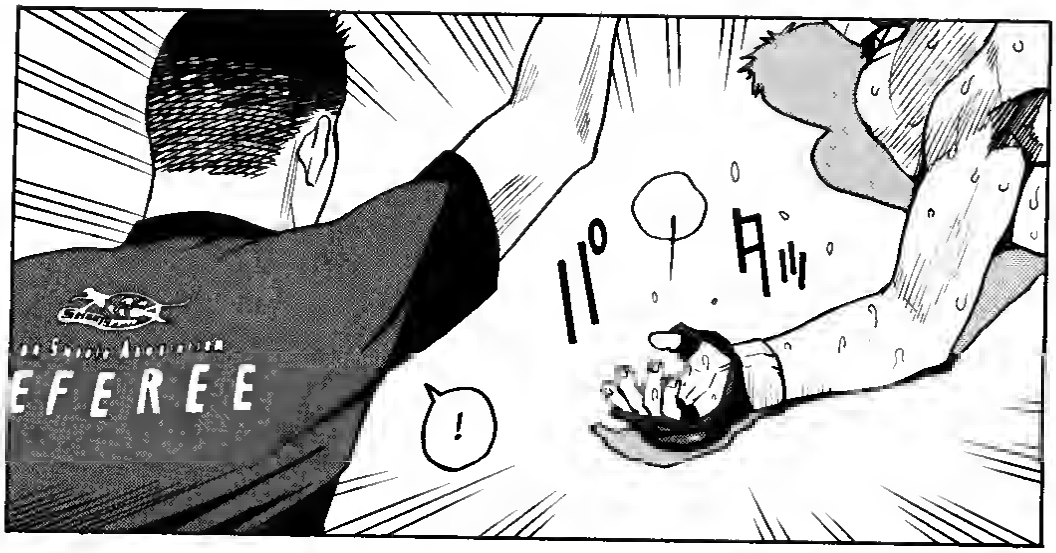

URG!

DID THAT KNEE TO THE GUT WORK?!
HIS GRIP'S WEAK...

I CAN DO IT!
ガッ
ガッ

CATCH
!


MEGURU! HIS BACK!
USE HIS BACK TO YOUR ADVANTAGE!
ALL YOU'VE GOT TO DO IS CROSS YOUR ARMS!


EFEREE
!

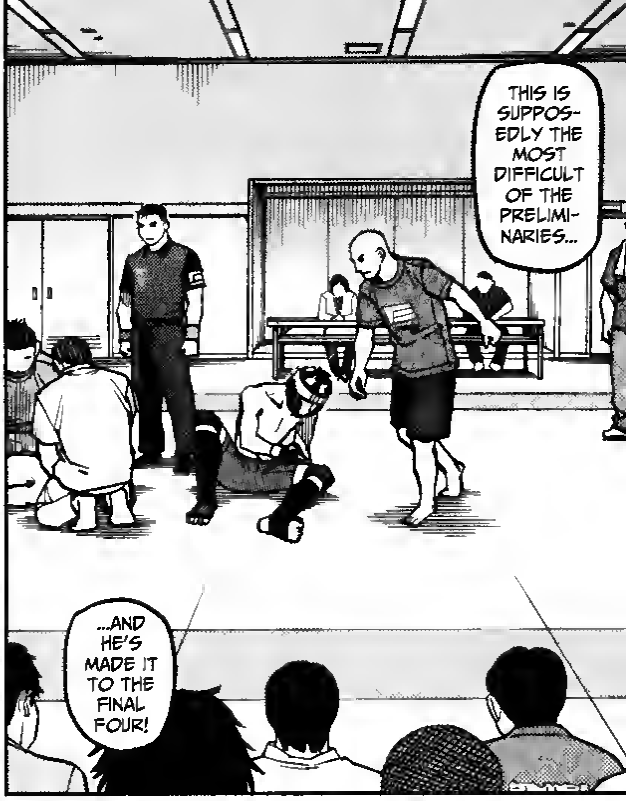
STOP
!

MATCH OVER!

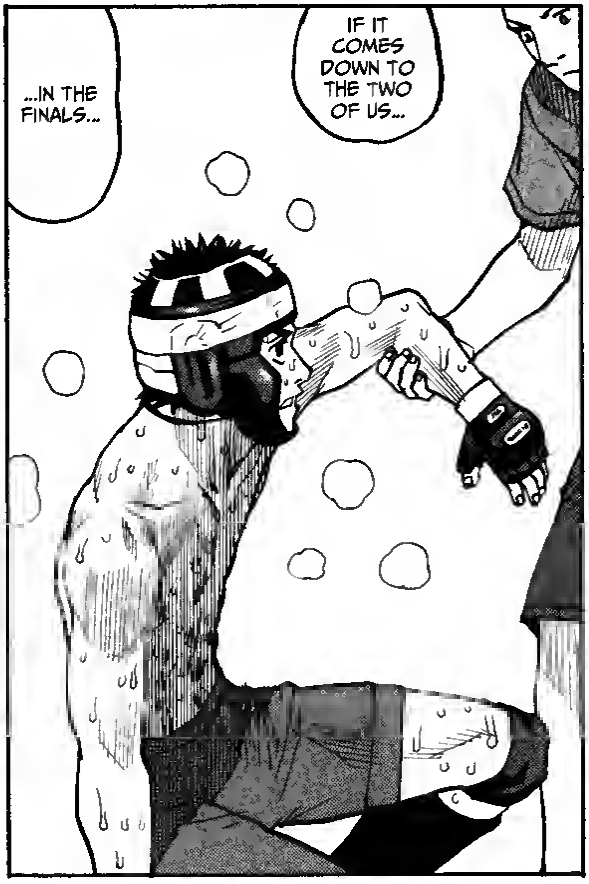
gasp
gasp
gasp
gasp
gasp

OUR MEGURU ...?
I KNOW, RIGHT?
MEGURU TOTALLY TURNED THE TABLES ON HIM...
ARE YOU KIDDING ME...?

...TAKE.
WHAT?


THIS IS SUPPOSEDLY THE MOST DIFFICULT OF THE PRELIMINARIES...
...AND HE'S MADE IT TO THE FINAL FOUR!

WHAT WITH US BEING FROM THE SAME GYM?
...WOULD THAT BE ALLOWED?


...IN THE FINALS...
IF IT COMES DOWN TO THE TWO OF US...

DO YOU REMEMBER GETTING KNEED?
UH...
DID I... LOSE?
YES.
...
YEAH.
The referee has called the stop to this contest...
...at 3 minutes and 52 seconds ...
!
...declaring the winner by Technical Submission...
...due to a Rear Naked Choke...
... Meguru Taka-yanagi!

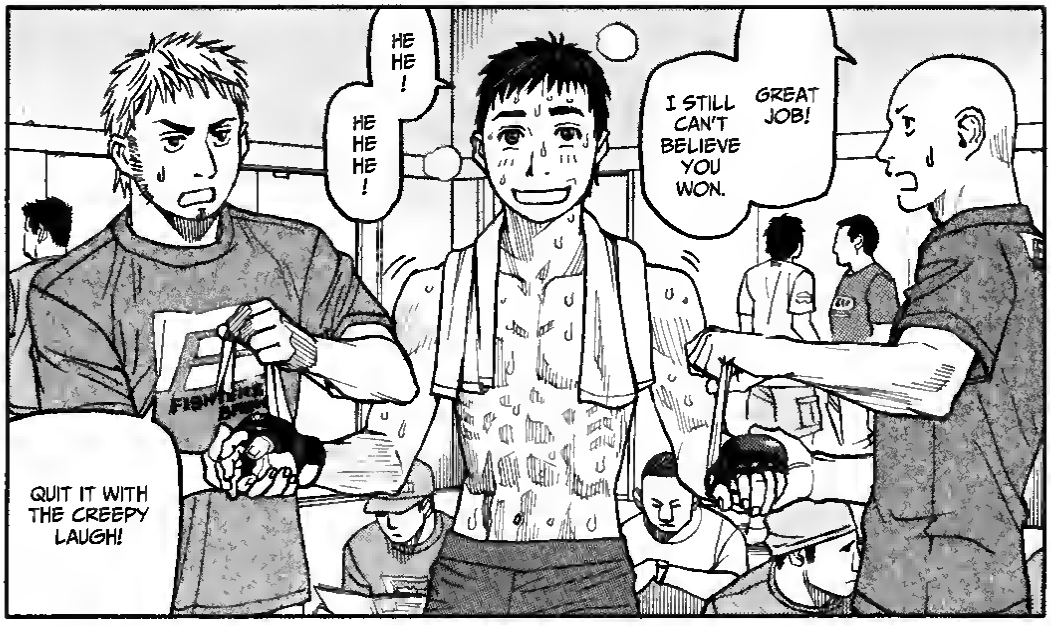
OGASA-
WARA...
UM...
...
NO...
I HAVE
TO
THANK
YOU.
THANK YOU
VERY MUCH!

!
KEEP YOUR HEAD UP, KIYOSHI !
THERE'S NOTHING TO BE ASHAMED OF.

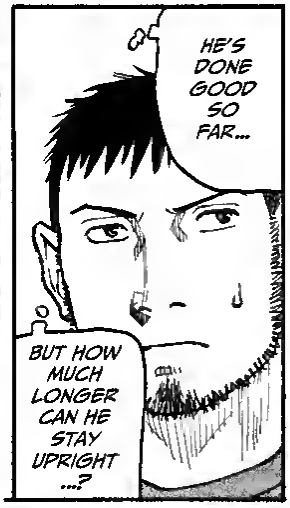
YOU CAN STILL...
...GET STRONGER.

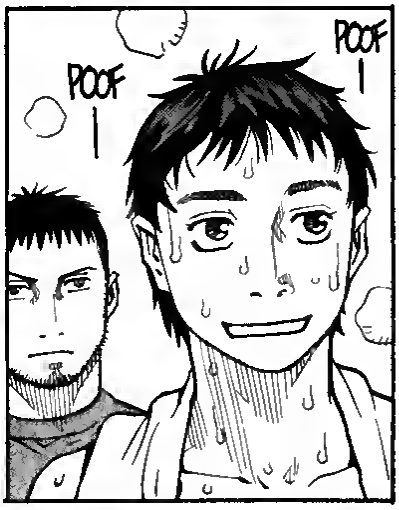
...

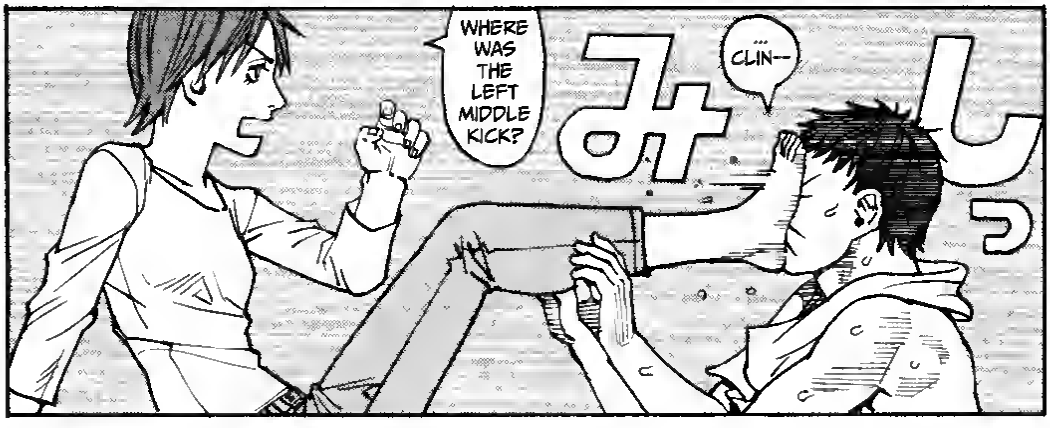
I'M SURPRISED TAKAYANAGI MADE IT THIS FAR...
YOU MIGHT EVEN FACE OFF AGAINST HIM AGAIN IN THE FINALS.


HE HE!
HE HE HE!
I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE YOU WON.
GREAT JOB!
QUIT IT WITH THE CREEPY LAUGH!

ME-GURU.
OH! MAKI!
IT'S ALL THANKS TO YOUR...


HE'S DONE GOOD SO FAR...
BUT HOW MUCH LONGER CAN HE STAY UPRIGHT ...?


POOF!
POOF!


WHERE WAS THE LEFT MIDDLE KICK?
...CLIN--
みぞっ

ALL ROUNDER MEGURU

オールラウンダー廻（メグル）